

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**'Fidel led working people to be changers of the world, not victims'**  
— PAGES 6-7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 84/NO. 35 SEPTEMBER 7, 2020

## *'Workers need a union in every workplace and a labor party!'*

BY SETH GALINSKY

As the vitriol between the two main capitalist candidates for U.S. president — Donald Trump and Joseph Biden — heats up with two months until the election, the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett offers the only voice in defense of the interests of working people.

SWP campaigners have put Kennedy and Jarrett on the ballot in six states. They are getting a wide hearing for the party's platform, which urges a fight for a union movement in every workplace, for workers control of production and for our own political party, a labor party. And it presents urgently needed demands to win protection from the biggest problem working people face now — devastating high unemployment. The party calls for immediate unemployment payments to all who need them and a federally funded jobs program to put millions back to work at union-scale pay.

None of the capitalist parties have any solution to the devastation working people confront — homelessness, speedup on the job, dangerous work conditions, cop violence, drug addiction, low wages and many more problems. These conditions are exacerbated by lockdowns

Continued on page 3

## Fight for a public works program to provide jobs



J.C. Rice

Quarter-mile-long line outside food bank in Queens, N.Y., Aug. 22, as bosses cut jobs, hours.

### **Demand gov't pay benefits to those without jobs now!**

*Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president, issued the following statement Aug. 25.*

### **SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT**

Join us in demanding government action now to protect working people from the spreading scourge of mass unemployment. Workers need to be working

Continued on page 9

### **As 2020 vote nears, working people face capitalist crisis**

BY TERRY EVANS

As the nominating conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties meet, working people face depression-like conditions with mounting job cuts, the scourge of "for profit" health care in a pandemic and employers' attacks on wages and working conditions.

Another 1.1 million filed for unemployment pay last week. Only once in the last five months has that number dipped below a million. Nearly 30 million workers are drawing on unemployment programs. At least 4 million workers who are still on the job have had their

Continued on page 9

## *Workers join protests, strike against rigged vote in Belarus*

BY SETH GALINSKY

Despite firings, large-scale arrests and beatings by police, working people continue to join daily protests and take strike action across Belarus. They are fighting to bring down the regime of President Alexander Lukashenko, who fraudulently proclaimed himself the winner in the Aug. 9 elections.

They are also demanding new elections, the release of political prisoners and prosecution of those responsible for the killing and torture of his opponents.

The regime blocked 50 news websites covering an Aug. 23 demonstration in Minsk and closed subways to prevent people from joining it, but to no avail. About 200,000 people joined the action in the capital. Demonstrators chanted, "Leave, leave" and "Put Lukashenko in a police wagon."

Over the last few weeks workers from at least 145 companies across the country have gone on strike demanding Lukashenko's resignation. This includes some of the largest factories that in the past had been bastions of support for the regime. Even 300 employees of Belarusian state TV went on strike, joined by journalists from the daily *Zvyazda*, calling for an end to censorship.

Protesters at the spirited actions sing the anthem for the movement

Continued on page 2

## Prosecute cops who shot Jacob Blake Jr., in back in Kenosha!



Militant/Naomi Craine

Julia Jackson, mother of Jacob Blake Jr. who was shot in back by cops in Kenosha, Wisconsin, addresses press Aug. 25. She said she supports continuing protests, but called out those responsible for arson and destruction, saying they don't reflect the values "of my son or my family."

BY ILONA GERSH

KENOSHA, Wis. — Protests broke out here after city cops pumped at least seven shots into the back of 29-year-old Jacob Blake Jr., at close range as he attempted to get into his SUV Aug. 23. A video made by an eyewitness showed the cop grabbing

Blake by his tank top with one hand, and firing a gun with the other. Blake was unarmed. His three young sons were in the back of the car.

Addressing a news conference in the Civil Center Park across from the Kenosha County Courthouse Aug. 25, Blake's

Continued on page 4

## *Florida Press Association calls on prison officials to lift 'Militant' ban*

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee upheld the banning of *Militant* issue no. 30, David Goldstein, the paper's attorney, filed an appeal Aug. 24 challenging the ruling. The *Militant* was also informed that authorities at the same state prison in Raiford, Florida, had banned issue no. 31.

"Prison officials are targeting the *Militant* because of its political viewpoints," writes Goldstein in his appeal, "in violation of the First Amendment rights of both subscribers and publishers." Their suppression of issue no. 30 "is arbitrary, capricious, discriminatory, unconstitutional."

Prison authorities had informed the *Militant* Aug. 8 that issue was impounded because of an article entitled, "Prisoners Demand Release from Overcrowded Jails." It's a news story about efforts in California to press for the release of inmates in the overcrowded state prison system,

where over 5,800 inmates statewide have contracted COVID-19. Similar coverage has appeared in newspapers in Florida and nationwide.

Prison authorities claim this article  
Continued on page 9

### Inside

Prosecute the cops who killed Breonna Taylor! 2

Socialist Workers Party updated 2020 campaign platform 3

Iowa storm deepens social crisis facing family farmers 4

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Newfoundland grocery workers strike for full-time jobs, wages

Bath workers settle, celebrate end of 63-day strike

# Belarus workers protest, strike

**Continued from front page**  
“Tear Down the Prison Walls.” Its lyrics include “You want freedom, take it. The wall will soon collapse and bury the old world.”

The demonstrations began the evening of Aug. 9, when the regime claimed Lukashenko was being reelected to a sixth term with 80% of the vote. Cops viciously attacked the protesters.

Opposition presidential candidate Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, whose rallies attracted tens of thousands leading up to the election, challenged the results. When the arrests and beatings began she fled to Lithuania.

Tikhanovskaya, a 37-year-old former English teacher, became the opposition candidate after her husband, Sergei Tikhanovsky, was arrested in May and barred from the ballot. Other candidates from bourgeois opposition parties were also ruled off the ballot.

The first protests were attacked by police firing stun grenades and rubber bullets. At least three people were killed. But the repression intensified outrage at the regime, fueling even larger actions, forcing the government to release most of the 7,000 protesters it had arrested. The latest round of demonstrations took place for the most part without police interference.

**Protest leaders arrested**

The day after the Aug. 23 demonstration, police detained at least four protest leaders, including Sergei Dylevsky, a worker at the Minsk Tractor Works; Alexander Lavrinovich, a worker at the MZKT truck plant; Anatoly Bokun, a leader of striking potash miners in Soligorsk; and Olga Kovalkova, a member of Tikhanovs-

kaya’s election campaign staff.  
Bokun was released within hours. The potash miners strike committee gave cops an ultimatum that if he wasn’t freed by 2.30 p.m. that day, “The time is up, we are going to the police station.”

The fall of Lukashenko would open up greater political space for working people to discuss and debate a way forward.

Demonstrations of support for the movement to oust Lukashenko have been organized in neighboring countries. Tens of thousands formed a 20-mile-long human chain from the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, to the Belarus border, Aug. 23. The action was backed by Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda. In Ukraine, where a mass working-class revolt toppled the pro-Moscow regime of Victor Yanukovich in 2014, hundreds marched to the Belarus Embassy in Kiev in solidarity with Belarusian protesters.

The Russian rulers station military forces in Belarus as a buffer against the expansion of Washington-led NATO troops into Poland and other Eastern European countries. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Belarus opposition forces should resolve their conflicts with Lukashenko by engaging in talks with the government.

While Moscow is Belarus’ main trading partner, Lukashenko has also clashed at times with the Russian rulers. He has made significant trade deals with West European governments and with Beijing.

Just as in other countries, the government and the bosses in Belarus have worked to push down wages in a bid to boost profits. Wages are so low in rural



AP Photo/Sergei Grits

**Thousands of demonstrators demand resignation of Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko Aug. 25 in Minsk. Workers at over 145 plants have gone on strike since Aug. 9 rigged election.**

areas — with some workers making as little as \$200 a month — that many farmworkers, especially in eastern Belarus, work and live most of the year in Russia, where wages are higher.

Lukashenko is hoping he can roll back the protests, making some appearances at state-owned factories around the country and threatening to close the

plants where protests are strong. Just before the latest large demonstration in Minsk he went to Grodno near the Polish border. “If a factory is not working then let’s put a lock on its gates,” he said.

But protest organizers are not backing down. They are calling on workers to “create strike committees in every plant.”

**Prosecute the cops who killed Breonna Taylor!**



Militant/Maggie Trowe

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Several hundred people marched here Aug. 25 in the latest action calling for prosecution of the cops who killed emergency room technician Breonna Taylor during a “no-knock” break-in to her apartment March 13. The action was organized by New York-based Until Freedom.

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## THE MILITANT

### For recognition of Israel and a Palestinian state!

*The opening of full diplomatic relations between the United Arab Emirates and Israel opens the door to other Arab regimes doing the same. It underlines the need for Israel, Arab governments and Palestinian groups to jointly recognize Israel and an independent Palestinian state.*



Koach La Ovdim

Jewish and Arab bus drivers demand better working conditions in Jerusalem in July.

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# For a union in every workplace

Continued from front page  
imposed following the outbreak of coronavirus.

Among those interested in discussing the SWP's fighting program are working people campaigners meet on their doorsteps in cities and towns, large and small, at protest marches, as well as on strike picket lines. Some are interested in finding out more about a party whose members act as union organizers, together with co-workers, at the retail stores, rail yards and other sites where they work, all year round.

There is interest too when campaign supporters explain that only disciplined action by working people can push back the brutal assaults cops inflict on working people and why the arson and destruction after cops shot Jacob Blake Jr. in Kenosha, Wisconsin, is a serious obstacle to that.

"Given what has been learned as the capitalist economic and social crisis unfolds, we updated our 2020 platform," national campaign director John Studer told the *Militant*. "The platform is printed in this issue."

"The first paragraph now says 'Workers need a union in every workplace.' We need to fight growing employer attacks on jobs, wages and working conditions. Our campaign explains why workers need a labor party to speak for all those exploited and oppressed by capitalist rule."

## 'Get involved in SWP campaign!'

"Kennedy and Jarrett will be touring coast to coast heading into the homestretch of the campaign, starting this weekend in Seattle," Studer said. "Get involved!"

"Introduce them and the party's local candidates to your friends, family members, co-workers and neighbors. Set up house meetings where the candidates can exchange views with fellow workers and discuss the road forward. Join candidates bringing solidarity to other workers' struggles."

Maggie Trowe, a Walmart worker and SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Kentucky, joined a picket line of striking DSI Tunneling workers in Louisville Aug. 21, to show solidarity with their

fight for a contract. The workers voted to join Teamsters Local 89 last year and have been on strike since early August.

Striker Ted Franzman told Trowe that the company has "taken so much from us, we need to stop them from taking more."

Trowe described the conditions that she and her co-workers face. "We're getting crushed by speedup. Walmart tells us 'we're all in this together.' Meanwhile, they're making record profits off our backs. We need a union."

Discussions like this, about the common challenges workers face and what can be done to change worsening conditions, provide the foundation for building the fighting working-class movement we need. Union struggles like the Teamsters' fight in Louisville set an example for workers elsewhere.

## Books on working-class struggles

An integral part of the campaign is promoting the *Militant* and books by leaders of the SWP and other revolutionary struggles. *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party*, both by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes,



Maggie Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Kentucky, visits picket line of members of Teamsters Local 89 on strike at DSI Tunneling, in Louisville Aug. 21.

and *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions* are three of the books campaigners use a lot.

These titles draw on the long record of courageous and self-sacrificing struggles by working people and the oppressed in the U.S. and elsewhere. They document work to build proletarian

parties here and around the world and point to the living example of the Cuban Revolution, where working people have shown it is possible to take power into our own hands and to successfully defend our conquests.

To join in, contact the campaign office nearest you, listed on page 8.

# Socialist Workers Party updated 2020 platform

**WORKERS NEED A UNION IN EVERY WORKPLACE.** We need to fight growing employer attacks on our jobs, wages and working conditions. Build solidarity with workers' struggles to organize and defend themselves. Use union power on our own behalf, and for all those suffering blows by the bosses and their government. One union for all drivers — taxi, Uber, Lyft and other app-based and car service drivers!

**WORKERS NEED THEIR OWN PARTY, A LABOR PARTY.** For a class break from the parties of the bosses, the Democrats and Republicans. A labor party can organize workers in their millions to fight in our own interest and in the interests of all those exploited and oppressed by capital. It can chart a course to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and build a workers and farmers government.

**WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION.** Workers need to fight to wrest control of production out of the hands of the bosses. Employers care about profits, not the dangerous conditions we're forced to work under. This is the only road to take control of and enforce safety and health on the job. Demand the bosses open their books for inspection by work-

ers and consumers. Workers control of production is a school for learning to run the economy ourselves, in the interests of all producers, a crucial step alongside building a labor party to fight to take political power.

**MILLIONS NEED JOBS TODAY!** Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building hospitals, schools, child care centers, mass transportation, quality affordable housing and much more that workers need. Set the minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

**AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS** in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver's licenses for all.

**OPPOSE WASHINGTON'S WARS.** US hands off Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

**FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL & OF A CONTIGUOUS PALESTINIAN STATE.** For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred and murderous violence.

**CUBA'S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE.** The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation. End the US rulers' economic war against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo.

**HEALTH CARE FOR ALL.** Fight for universal, government-guaranteed cradle-to-grave health care, and retirement income for all.

**FIGHT POLICE BRUTALITY!** Demand that cops who kill and brutalize people be prosecuted. Fight racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system, with its frame-ups, "plea bargains," onerous bail and out-

rageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

**WOMEN'S RIGHT TO ABORTION.** Defend women's right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

**DEFEND POLITICAL RIGHTS.** Defend the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Defend freedom of worship. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption. No to middle-class radical "cancel culture" and their thuggery against people they deem "politically incorrect."

**DEFEND RIGHTS OF PRISONERS.** End solitary confinement. End suppression of the *Militant*, books and other newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

**FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND.** To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to monopolization by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

## KENNEDY-JARRETT campaign schedule

**Washington State**  
August 28 - Sept. 1

**SF Bay Area**  
Sept. 3 - 7

**Los Angeles**  
Sept. 9 - 13

## Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2020! Campaign for what you are for, not who you're against!

- ☐ I want to endorse the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president.
- ☐ I want to join in campaigning or host a house meeting for the candidates. Please contact me.
- ☐ Here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help spread the word. (Make checks to Socialist Workers National Campaign)
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Socialist Workers Party 2020 Campaign, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, NY, NY 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282 ✉ Email: socialistworkers2020@gmail.com

## Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The 1934 strikes that built the industrial union movement in Minneapolis and helped pave the way for the CIO, as recounted by a central leader of that battle. — \$16



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# Iowa storm deepens social crisis facing family farmers

BY KAITLIN ESTILL

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — With little warning, a severe windstorm tore through the Midwest Aug. 10 destroying homes and farmland. But the devastation it left was turned into a social disaster by state and federal governments, whose one message to workers and farmers has been, “you’re on your own.”

From South Dakota to Ohio, winds of over 100 mph leveled corn and soybean cropland, toppled trees and power lines, and smashed grain silos and farm buildings. Three people died in Iowa and more than 60 were injured. One person died in Indiana. Hundreds of thousands were left without power for days.

Much of Cedar Rapids, Iowa’s second largest city with a population of more than 130,000, was devastated. Over 1,000 homes were destroyed and some 4,000 damaged. Nowhere did government officials mobilize resources to swiftly deal with the impact of the disaster.

“A week later we don’t even have food,” Genevieve Adams, a Nordstrom fulfillment center worker, told the *Washington Post*. Adams left her damaged home in Cedar Hills, near Cedar Rapids, with her 15-year-old son and has been surviving on a single meal a day.

In Marion, another town near Cedar Rapids, a food pantry staffed by volunteers, including from local churches, distributed foodstuffs and water to 10 times the normal number of people.

“The government is too slow,” Amanda Cooley told the *Minnesota Star Tribune* Aug. 23 as she headed to a friend’s home to help clear debris. “It’s the community that is responding.” Working people from near and far came to help clear the rubble, cutting up and removing fallen trees.

Some 14 million acres of corn and soybeans, more than a third of Iowa’s cropland, were heavily damaged. Tens of millions of bushels from last year’s harvest, kept in storage by farmers hoping for higher prices, were lost when metal silos were ripped apart.

## Farmers face ruin

For working farmers throughout the region, the storm “has really been the straw that broke the camel’s back,” Larry Ginter, a retired hog farmer in Rhodes, told the *Militant* Aug. 23.

“There has also been a drought right now in Iowa, so we won’t see the damage to the soybean crop until harvest time.” The havoc wreaked by the storm came on top of government-imposed lockdowns that shuttered meatpacking plants, restricting demand for farmers’ animals.

Family farmers, forced continuously into debt to the banks, are facing more bankruptcies and losing their land today. Farm debt has grown to levels not seen since the 1980s.

Two days after the storm, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced it would make assistance available for farmers. But according to the National Farmers Union, when funds were previously distributed under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program the largest capitalist farmers pocketed more than 60% of the disbursements. The bottom 10%, struggling family farmers, received an average of only \$300.

“One of our first demands needs

to be: ‘No more farm foreclosures,’” Ginter said. “Anyone who wants to farm should be able to. No one deserves to have their farm or their home taken away from them.”

Samir Hazboun, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in the 3rd District in Kentucky, drove through Iowa and witnessed the damage. He calls for immediate relief with the government covering farmers’ costs of production, including living expenses. “To immediately halt farm foreclosures,” he said, “my party demands nationalization of the land, putting the soil at the service of the farmers who till it.”

Hazboun contrasted the conduct of the government here to what he had seen during a solidarity trip to Cuba after a hurricane had hit there. The revolutionary government mobilized the population to evacuate from dangerous areas prior to the hurricane’s arrival.

## Prosecute Kenosha cops who shot Jacob Blake Jr.!

**Continued from front page**

father, also named Jacob Blake, thanked everyone for coming out in support of his son. “They shot my son in the back. Like he didn’t matter,” he said. “But my son matters. He’s a human being, and he matters.”

Blake Jr. is now paralyzed from the waist down in a Milwaukee hospital, where he was airlifted two days ago. Attorney Patrick Salvi, one of several lawyers representing the Blake family, told the news media Blake’s injuries included a severed spinal cord, some shattered vertebra, damage to his kidneys and liver, several holes in his stomach, and most of his large colon and small intestine had been removed.

Blake’s mother, Julia Jackson, and three of his sisters also spoke. “So many people have reached out to say, ‘I’m sorry.’ But don’t be sorry. I’m not sorry. I’m angry,” Letetra Wideman, one of the sisters, said. “I’ve been watching police kill people who look like me for years. Kill members of my family. Emmett Till was my family. Michael Brown was my family. George Floyd was my family. I’m not sad. I don’t want your pity. I want change.”

Following the shooting, hundreds of protesters marched from the shooting site to the Kenosha County Courthouse. A second march took place the next day. Hundreds of protesters stretching several blocks marched ahead of a caravan of honking cars through the streets of Kenosha in the evening of Aug. 24 to denounce police abuse, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Protests have continued.

Later in the night, opportunist anarchists and others turned to destruction, including burning down small businesses in Uptown and other working-class and Black neighborhoods. Four blocks in Kenosha’s Uptown district were almost leveled. This reporter saw smoke still rising from some of the rubble.

On Aug. 24 Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers declared a state of emergency and called in 125



Militant/Zena Jasper

**Grain silos in Linn County smashed by powerful Aug. 10 windstorm that battered Iowa. Government has left farmers, workers on their own, turning natural disaster into a social crisis.**

It “organized brigades of construction workers and electricians to quickly restore power and repair structures,” Hazboun said. “They also had volunteers replant crops in damaged areas that could be ready for harvest. These kinds

of initiatives build a stronger alliance between workers and farmers.

“This shows what the working class can accomplish when we are organized to use our labor to serve our class interests,” he added.

members of the state National Guard. A dawn-to-dusk curfew was imposed, which is still in place. Armed vigilante-type groups have shown up.

The Kenosha County Board Aug. 26 wrote to the governor asking for 1,500 more National Guard.

Blake’s father said the police were responsible for the violence and damage, not his son. “My son is not responsible for it. My son didn’t have a weapon. He didn’t have a gun,” he told the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

## Debate over violence, destruction

Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, drove to Kenosha to participate in the protests and talk with workers there. She attended the news conference. One big topic of debate and discussion is the question of the late-night destruction and violence as opposed to disciplined mass action.

Blake’s family has been firm in speaking out both for protests and against destruction and looting. “As I was riding through here, through this city, I noticed a lot of damage that doesn’t reflect my son or my family,” Julia Jackson told the press. “If Jacob knew what was going on as far as that goes, the violence and destruction, he would be very displeased.”

The family has a history in the fight against racial discrimination and police violence. Jacob Blake Sr., Jacob’s grandfather, was a minister and leader of civil rights protests against housing discrimination in Evanston, Illinois, in the 1960s.

Craine met Colesha Lyttle, who

works as a dialysis technician, and Doreen Wright, her mother, in the park where the press conference was held. “The first night I came out to protest. I got so angry, I said I had to be part of protesting,” Lyttle said. “I went to where the shooting happened and then we marched to the police station. I left before the craziness started.”

“This affects us all,” she said. “I have an 18-year-old son. I’m scared for my kid. The police don’t ask questions, they shoot first. Black people have to live with heightened fear.”

Wright, who is originally from Jamaica, said, “A journalist asked me what I thought about them burning things down. I don’t condone it, but people need to start speaking out.

“I don’t think this [the burning] is the protesters. It’s opportunists. Why do they burn down the neighborhood? The people who live here don’t own anything. They need education, good jobs,” she said. “It’s not like when Martin Luther King was marching and people stuck together.”

“Yes, we need to build a disciplined mass movement like the civil rights movement of the 1950s and ’60s,” Craine said. “The breadth of the response to the killing of George Floyd and the recent labor strikes over wages and working conditions. like the 63-day strike by shipbuilders in Bath, Maine, show the potential to build such a movement. That would make growing numbers of working people feel comfortable to join our actions and push aside the small minority that want confrontational violence against police, wanton destruction and looting.”

“We need a labor party to mobilize working people, including in protests against police brutality,” said Craine. “It could chart a course towards taking political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers, and building a workers and farmers government. We need to replace the capitalist system, that breeds both racism and exploitation.”



Kenosha News/Dan Truttschel

**Hundreds in Kenosha, Aug. 24, demand arrest of the cops who shot Jacob Blake Jr. the day before. Antifa, others used cover of protests to spread havoc.**

# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world! This column is dedicated to spreading the truth about workers' struggles for a union movement in every workplace today. It gives a voice to those engaged in battle and helps build solidarity. We need your help to make it a success. If you are involved in a skirmish or strike or know other workers who are, please contact me at (212) 244-4899 or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story gets told.

— Roy Landersen

## Newfoundland grocery workers strike for full-time jobs, wages

MONTREAL — Some 1,400 unionized grocery workers at 11 Dominion stores across the Canadian province of Newfoundland went on strike Aug. 22. The members of Unifor Local 597 set up pickets at stores from St. John's to Stephenville. They've been without a contract since October 2019.

Workers want reinstated the full-time jobs that were lost in 2019 as 60 full-time positions were eliminated in the company's Newfoundland stores. Unifor Local 597 President Carolyn Wrice told the media Aug. 23 that more than 80% of workers are part time, with low pay, limited access to benefits, and haven't received a raise since the spring of 2018.

Workers began calling for a strike in June — in the middle of contract talks — when Dominion's parent company, Loblaw Companies Limited, ended a 2 Canadian dollar-an-hour wage increase (\$1.52) for "essential workers" during the coronavirus pandemic. "The majority of our workers are barely making over minimum wage," Wrice told CBC News. "We have a lot of single parents who are trying to raise families. It's hard to do," she added.

The company's latest proposal, which workers rejected July 31, offered to restore only half of the CA\$2 increase over the life of a three-year contract.

The strikers are starting to receive support from fellow workers. "We completely understand what you are going through and hope that you keep up the fight," said a message sent by Nain Martinez, who works at the West Kelowna Walmart in British Columbia. "Retail stores across the country have united in order to defend their acts of injustice and take away our pandemic pay. Now it is our turn to stand together and support each other in this time of crisis."

— Beverly Bernardo

## Louisville: DSI Tunneling workers strike for first union contract

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Driving down East Chestnut Street Aug. 21, we could hear a steady stream of honking cars, expressing solidarity with members of Teamsters Local 89 on strike at DSI Tunneling for a contract. The unionists walked out Aug. 4.

DSI, which operates in 70 countries worldwide, manufactures steel beams and girders for tunneling and mining operations. It's owned by Triton, an international investment operation. "We focus on companies with the potential to create sustainable, long-term value," the company boasts on its website.

The workers won a bitter fight last November to win union representation, and then began negotiating for their first contract. But bosses brought in an anti-union law firm to run the negotiations, the same firm they used to try and block the union. Their law-



Militant/Kaitlin Estill

Teamsters Local 89 members on strike against DSI Tunneling in Louisville, Kentucky, picket Aug. 21 for their first contract. Workers won bitter fight for union representation last November.

yers stalled, and the company refused to allow workers on the negotiating committee to take time off work, so the meetings took place after they had worked a 10- or 12-hour shift. After months of this, the unionists voted unanimously to strike.

The bosses' lawyers are from National Labor Relations Advocates, which says its specialty is "union avoidance."

"The major thing is sticking together. The one worker who crossed

the line doesn't realize we're doing this for everyone," Jimmy Koloe, a 33-year-old striker, told the *Militant* on the picket line. "The most important thing is just getting a contract," striker Ted Franzman said. "They've taken so much from us, we need to stop them from taking more."

Send contributions and messages of solidarity to Teamsters Local 89, 3813 Taylor Blvd., Louisville KY 40215.

— Kaitlin Estill

## Bath workers settle, celebrate end of 63-day strike

BY VED DOOKHUN

BATH, Maine — Shipbuilders at Bath Iron Works voted by 87% to approve a three-year contract and returned to work Aug. 24 following a hard-fought 63-day strike after rejecting the bosses' "last, best and final" anti-union contract offer. The workers are members of Machinists Local S6.

The voting was done online after a week of discussion at the union hall.

The shipyard builds destroyers for the Navy. It is one of the larger military contractors in the country, employing 6,800 workers, 4,300 of whom are in Local S6.

The bosses had counted on being able to play hundreds of newer hires against veteran union members. Their goal was to increase the number of non-union contract workers in the shipyard and undermine the union's control over seniority in filling jobs and mak-

ing shift and overtime assignments.

Faced with a unified strike and government pressure to resume production, the bosses agreed to federal mediation, leading to new negotiations. Difficulties in hiring strikebreakers or getting workers to cross the picket line meant they couldn't keep production running.

"We got what we wanted," Local S6 member Laurie Dorr told the *Militant* at a union-organized pig roast Aug. 22. "Seniority and subcontractors were the main issues for us." Over 100 workers, family members and strike supporters gathered at the union hall to celebrate what many here described as a victory.

"We won and this is what solidarity looks like," Robert Martinez, president of the international union, said at the rally. He praised the unionists for standing strong in face of company pressure.

The three-year contract has a 3% an-

nual wage increase with a signing bonus of \$1,200, as well as protecting seniority and a limit on nonunion contractors.

There were some concessions. Health care costs will go up, but less than bosses wanted. The "last, best" company offer had a 5% annual increase, but the contract passed has a 4% increase in the first year and 3% in each of the next two.

While the agreement allows the company flexibility to catch up with production until the end of 2020, subcontractors will be phased out then.

As part of the arrangement to end the strike, union officials agreed to take down the pickets before the contract vote. This led to a lively debate at the union hall as strikers came in to discuss the agreement and qualify for strike pay.

### 'Unity and solidarity key'

"Solidarity was key," said Marc Bubar, a 34-year veteran at the shipyard. He described how the union organized to reach out and won support from unions, workers and local businesses in the area. "Many took signs and displayed them in their windows."

"Community support and an unwavering organized membership were the decisive elements to the success of the strike," shipbuilder Andy James said. He described his activity in the strike action committee, organizing a food pantry through the union hall and outreach to local businesses to find jobs strikers could take to help cover expenses and keep the strike solid.

"It was solidarity among union members which won the strike," Laura Saford agreed. "Newer members like me learned we can fight, and we can win. We are a stronger union going back."

"Some thought we should keep fighting around wages and benefits," she said. "But we gained strength and can win those battles when the right time comes."

"We stand taller going back into the shipyard," said Tiffany Briggs, a newer worker at the shipyard. "A lot of people will have more confidence in the union."

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



### September 11, 1995

Some 60 combat aircraft, 48 of them from the United States, launched widespread bombing raids against positions held by Serb troops loyal to Belgrade around Sarajevo and elsewhere in Bosnia August 29. The NATO air strikes, spearheaded by Washington, deepen military intervention by the imperialist powers in the former Yugoslav republic, escalate the bloody war, and threaten a broader Balkan conflict.

The military action began the day after Serb gunners shelled a crowded market in central Sarajevo. Washington latched onto the marketplace slaughter as a pretext to use military might to partition Bosnia and widen its influence in the region.

The U.S. government and the big-business media sounded a unified voice in support of the decision by president Bill Clinton to order the air strikes.



### September 11, 1970

LOS ANGELES — The National Chicano Moratorium antiwar demonstration here was the target of an apparently planned, bloody police riot. The attack led to the murder of Chicano journalist Ruben Salazar, numerous injuries, and the arrest on trumped-up felony charges of several leaders and candidates of the Colorado Crusade for Justice and La Raza Unida Party.

A minimum of 20,000 and as many as 40,000 marched peacefully through the East Los Angeles barrio. The Los Angeles County sheriff's department took a provocative stance. Taking a minor incident near the rally as a pretext and with no warning, the crowd was attacked by a rampaging, club-swinging army of at least 500 cops.

A severe police repression is under way. An organized response by the Chicano Moratorium is being formulated.



### September 8, 1945

NEW YORK, N.Y., Aug. 29 — More than fifty thousand workers packed into the streets here today in a gigantic demonstration against unemployment.

It was a militant army of workers in a fighting spirit. The great numbers who responded to the CIO call exceeded all expectations. "Jobs For All!" was the demand on the majority of banners and signs. "Vets Demand Full Employment!" and "Make Congress Act Now!" were slogans carried by many sections.

Suddenly a union band broke out with "Solidarity Forever." The crowd waved their signs and banners and sang louder as new, young workers picked up the words to this powerful labor song.

This was the first mass action since Pearl Harbor. It gave promise that in the days to come the New York workers will come out on the streets in fighting formation—and for a fighting program.

# ‘Fidel led working people to be *changers* of the world, not victims’

The following talk by Mary-Alice Waters was given in response to an invitation to take part in an online Celebration of the Life of Fidel Castro Aug. 13. Waters is a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee and president of Pathfinder Press. She has edited or written some 30 books on the Cuban Revolution and its communist example. A news article appears on the facing page. Waters' remarks are copyright © Pathfinder Press 2020, reprinted by permission.

## BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Fidel Castro's leadership of the toilers of Cuba and the world is unlike that of any other man or woman in the twentieth or twenty-first centuries. With one exception. That is Vladimir Lenin, the principal leader of the Bolshevik Revolution of October 1917 in Russia. The central leaders of the two great socialist revolutions of the twentieth century stand apart from all others.

The respect Fidel enjoyed was unparalleled both because it was *earned* and *never abused*, and because Fidel earned it by shouldering leadership responsibility over decades of class combat.

Fidel used the trust he enjoyed not simply to administer but to lead — to lead *politically*. He was famous — some, of course, would say infamous — for his speeches lasting many hours, presented to assemblies of hundreds of thousands of Cuban working people, who hung on every word, sometimes under blazing tropical sun or torrential rain.

That rapport between Fidel and the toiling masses of Cuba, normal women and men, was something the revolution's enemies were never able to comprehend. In those moments, Fidel drew from his own experience and understanding of the laws of history, of science and of the class struggle in order to broaden the horizons of the Cuban masses — the real meaning of the word “culture.” He led them to recognize themselves as actors not subjects — *changers of the world*, not victims of it, accomplishing what others deemed impossible.

He awakened them to “their worth” — to use the words of Malcolm X. To what they were and are capable

of achieving, but only by fighting together, with discipline and class consciousness.

## Transform themselves in struggle

Most important was Fidel's ability to convey to the working people of Cuba — and to all of us — what we need to be willing to confront and change in ourselves in order to organize and fight effectively against a powerful ruling class and its spokespeople, who try to teach us the opposite. Those who try to convince us that our worth and capacities are so limited that we must accept the exploitation, oppression and compulsion on which the maintenance of capitalist rule depend. That we must submit to its dog-eat-dog norms.

The devastation facing working people the world over — precipitated by the coronavirus pandemic, which sharply accelerated the already deepening capitalist crisis — serves to underscore the fact that the Cuban Revolution cannot be reduced to the example it sets in the fields of health care and education. Its working people and government uphold those human rights. And they uphold them *in practice*, not just in words, as Ambassador Vidal<sup>1</sup> explained so well.

As we see our loved ones condemned to die alone in nursing-centers-turned-death-chambers, as well as in overwhelmed hospital wards, however, we are taught once again that health and education are class questions. They register the values of the ruling class, the class that holds state power.

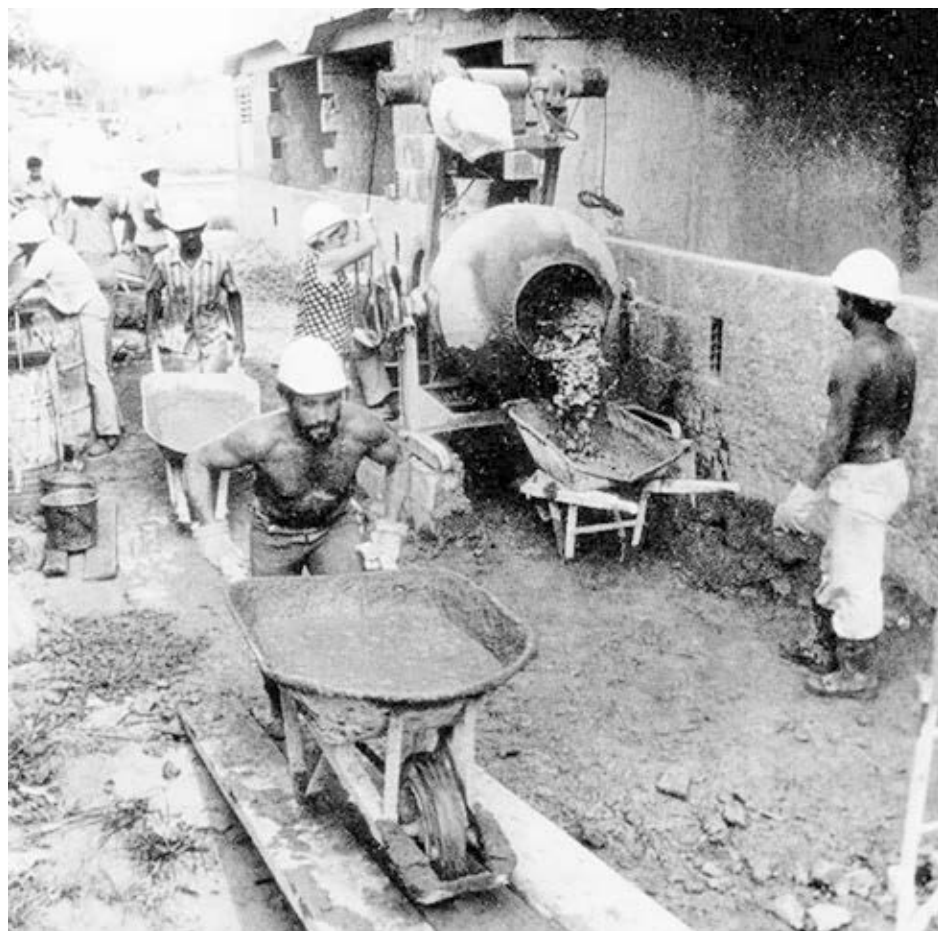
Cuba's example today is possible only because of the revolutionary so-

## ‘Lenin and Fidel, leaders of the two great socialist revolutions of the 20th century, stand apart’

cialist victory conquered sixty years ago by Cuban working people under Fidel's leadership. That, above all, is why we pay tribute to him tonight.

## Rectification, political consciousness

There have been many moments over the decades when Fidel's lead-



Launching of the “Rectification” process in 1986, at Fidel Castro's initiative, was a turning point in the Cuban Revolution. Working people answered the call to join volunteer brigades, like above, to build homes, clinics, schools and child care centers. The historic effort “remobilized and remoralized” working people, Mary-Alice Waters said.

ership of the Cuban Revolution was decisive. Each of us might pick a different one. But no turning point was more important than 1986 when Fidel, at the third congress of the Cuban Communist Party, initiated what became known as the Process of Rectification of Errors and Negative Tendencies.

That historic effort over a period of five years remobilized, and remoralized, Cuban working people across the island, as they enthusiastically volunteered for work brigades that built tens of thousands of homes, clinics, schools, child care centers and much more. In doing so, they proved to themselves that they could reverse the erosion of political confidence that had accompanied spreading reliance on forms of capitalist administrative methods copied from what was falsely labeled “actually existing socialism.”<sup>2</sup>

The accomplishments in Cuba during those years were inseparable from the confidence that made possible the historic victory of Cuito Cu-anavale and the defeat of the South African apartheid regime.<sup>3</sup>

But not only that.

The conquests of the Rectification

3 In 1988, during the battle of Cuito Cu-anavale, a crushing military defeat was dealt to the South African apartheid regime by a combined force of Cuban internationalist volunteer combatants and those from Angola and Namibia. The U.S.-backed white supremacist regime had invaded Angola in late 1975 soon after it had won its freedom from Portuguese colonial rule, and the Cuban leadership responded to the newly independent government's appeal for international help in resisting the assault. Some 425,000 Cubans volunteered for duty in Angola between 1975 and 1991, helping to secure the country's sovereignty, win Namibia's independence and give a powerful boost to the overturn of apartheid in South Africa.

ses facing humanity today, including the expanding deserts and droughts across Africa and especially the “destructive power of modern weaponry,” which “could make human life on earth's surface impossible.”

On this seventy-fifth anniversary of US imperialism's barbarous atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Fidel's words couldn't be more timely.

“We have never considered producing nuclear weapons,” Fidel had told a gathering at the University of Havana in 2005. “It would mean joining the game of nuclear confrontation.”

And this decision, he added, is not because the revolution faces no enemies or military threats.

The reason, Fidel said, is that we already “possess a weapon as powerful as nuclear power, and that is the immense justice for which we are struggling.”

“Who are you going to use [a nuclear weapon] against?” Fidel asked in a book-length interview, first published in 2006. “Against the American people? No! That would be unfair and absurd.” For a country in conflict with US imperialism, he said, “A nuclear weapon is a good way to commit suicide at a certain point.”

But “there is one weapon we haven't renounced,” and will not, Fidel said in that interview. That is the “war of the entire people.”<sup>5</sup>

## ‘Never renounce what we've won’

I'll end on one point.

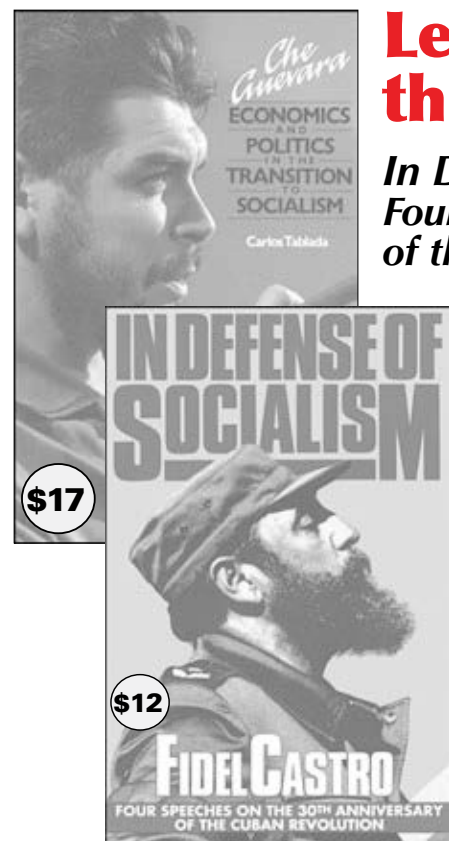
Several weeks before the 2016 Cuban Communist Party congress, Fidel had penned a powerful reply to then US president Barack Obama, who had told the Cuban people at the close of his March 22 speech in Havana

4 With the fall of the Soviet Union and its allied regimes in Eastern and Central Europe at the opening of the 1990s, Cuba confronted an abrupt collapse of 85 percent of its foreign trade.

5 Fidel Castro, *My Life* (Simon & Shuster, 2006, 2007).

## Learn more about the Cuban Revolution!

**In Defense of Socialism: Four Speeches on the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution** by Fidel Castro



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See distributors page 8 or visit:

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Fidel Castro with independence fighters in Quang Tri, during 1973 visit to liberated areas in U.S.-occupied south Vietnam. “We will never forget Fidel's declaration that for Vietnam, Cuba is willing to shed its blood,” said Vietnam U.N. Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy, inset.

## Program celebrates political legacy of Fidel Castro

### BY JANET POST

The political legacy of Cuban revolutionary leader Fidel Castro was celebrated in an online program Aug. 13 organized by supporters of the U.S. National Network on Cuba, Canadian Network on Cuba, and Table de Concertation de Solidarité Québec-Cuba. The co-chairs were Tamara Hansen of the Canadian Network and Ike Nahem, a leader of the Cuba Si coalition in New York.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, said Fernando González, ICAP's president, in a video from Havana. The organization was founded at Fidel's initiative in 1960, he said, “when the U.S. embarked on a hostile policy of isolation against Cuba. A policy that, as you very well know, continues today.”

This year, said González, the U.S. government is blocking Cuba's efforts to purchase medical supplies to treat COVID and escalating its campaign of lies against Cuba's internationalist brigades of doctors and medical workers in some 40 countries.

Others making remarks as part of the program included Cuba's ambassadors to the U.S., Canada and United Nations — José Ramón Cabañas, Josefina Vidal and Ana Silvia Rodríguez — as well as Adán Chávez, Venezuela's ambassador to Cuba.

Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy of Vietnam's U.N. mission said that Cuba had been a “pioneer” in its support of the Vietnamese people's revolutionary struggle against U.S. imperialism's bru-

tal war to block the country's national sovereignty and unification. “We will never forget Fidel's declaration,” Dang said, that “For Vietnam, Cuba is willing to shed its blood.”

Dang displayed photographs of Fidel's September 1973 trip to liberated areas in U.S.-occupied south Vietnam — the first and only head of state from anywhere in the world to visit there. The pictures showed Fidel meeting with Vietnamese working people, soldiers and leaders of the government and national liberation forces.

Clever Banganayi of the Friends of Cuba Society in South Africa paid tribute to the 425,000 Cuban internationalist combatants who volunteered in Angola between 1975 and 1991. Banganayi, who studied in Cuba in the 1990s, explained that the Cuban internationalists had come to “help safeguard the territorial integrity of Angola, to pave the way for the independence of Namibia and the defeat of apartheid” in South Africa itself.

Banganayi recalled the 1978 massacre of some 600 Namibians by the South African Defense Force at a refugee camp at Cassinga, in southern Angola. Only a few weeks later, he said, hundreds of surviving Namibian children arrived in Cuba for medical care and schooling. “Cuba opened its doors widely and generously to the Namibian refugees,” he said.

“Cuba has undertaken solidarity not as a means of foreign policy,” Banganayi added, “but as a moral and fraternal commitment to the people of Africa.”



Josefina Vidal, Cuba's ambassador to Canada, spoke on health care in Cuba.



Clever Banganayi, leader of South Africa's Friends of Cuba Society.



Fernando González, president of Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples.



Courtesy Gen. Moisés Sío Wong  
Havana, 2004: Mary-Alice Waters with Gen. Moisés Sío Wong, then head of Cuba's urban farm program, begun in 1990s to meet food needs during hardships of “Special Period.”

# How Cuban Revolution beat the ‘fifth column’ in Escambray

From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution by Victor Dreke is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. Dreke joined Cuba's revolutionary movement as a high school student and became a Rebel Army fighter. He went on to be an internationalist combatant at the side of Che Guevara in the Congo. For years he has been a political leader at home and a representative of the Cuban Revolution throughout Africa. Some of those who came to power in Escambray after the triumph of the revolution became enemies of the new workers and farmers government. Dreke served as a commander of the volunteer battalions that defeated these counterrevolutionary bands. The excerpt is from “Lucha Contra Bandidos” in the Escambray.” Copyright © 2002 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Granma

Militia members in the Escambray learning to read and write in 1961. Land reform and literacy campaign benefited peasants, helping the volunteer fighters defeat counterrevolutionary bandits, and deepened support to Cuba's socialist revolution and its leaders.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY VICTOR DREKE

In Cuba at the triumph of the revolution there were a half million illiterates, and there were another half million who were only semiliterate. That was the concrete situation. If one were to go to Pinar del Río or to the Escambray the situation was terrible. There was no electricity, no running water — what little water there was came from wells. There were no

stores. There were few radios, since you couldn't even receive radio signals throughout much of these mountainous areas. All this made the enemy's job easier. ...

These counterrevolutionaries were concentrated in the Escambray. They worked on some peasants and managed to recruit a few. At the same time, they also committed abuses in the areas where they functioned. They murdered peasants, they raped peasant women. They burned down schools and homes. So the peasants were terrorized; they were deathly afraid of the counterrevolutionaries. Some peasants joined them consciously, of course, but others joined out of fear. This is how the counterrevolutionary movement was built. ...

One of those in charge of the agrarian reform there, for example, was the counterrevolutionary Evelio Duque. Duque headed up INRA [National Institute of Agrarian Reform] in Sancti Spiritus, and he removed the compañeros who were revolutionaries from the agrarian reform and its leadership. He removed people like Commander Julio Castillo, a revolutionary who was highly regarded in Sancti Spiritus. Then Duque recruited others who, like himself, weren't revolutionaries.

What did Duque do? He committed a series of injustices. He expropriated land that shouldn't have been taken. Or else he extorted money in exchange for not

expropriating someone's land.

So the agrarian reform wasn't implemented as the commander in chief [Fidel Castro] and the revolutionary leadership had laid out in the Agrarian Reform Law. Nor as Che [Guevara] and the compañeros of the [Revolutionary] Directorate had done during the war. ...

The conscious revolutionaries at that time were not yet Marxists or Leninists — and I'm not just speaking about myself — but at least we wanted a revolution. We wanted to prevent the bourgeoisie from returning to power. We wanted the poor to be in charge. We wanted racial equality. That's what we were then.

But the fact is we gave the Escambray to the bandits as a gift during the first stage. That has to be said.

When the first clean-up operation began in 1960, when the army arrived, when Fidel arrived, the peasants responded, and entire battalions of peasant militias from the Escambray were formed. The peasants asked for weapons and they defended the Escambray. So what the enemy thought was going to be a den of thieves was, by determined revolutionary combat, turned into a bulwark of the revolution. ...

The first clean-up operation in the Escambray ran from the end of 1960 through the first months of 1961. But we had to withdraw our troops with a few bands still remaining. And then in April came Playa Girón.

We withdrew our troops early on in 1961 because they had already been mobilized for months. They were workers and peasants who had voluntarily left their workplaces and were absent from their jobs. Since they were taking part in the clean-up operation, they weren't producing. It's important to remember that the enemy used the counterrevolutionary bands in the Escambray to try to drain the resources of the fledgling revolution, which was fighting to resolve the country's economic problems.

Most militia volunteers weren't getting paid anything. For those who had jobs, their factories and workplaces continued to pay their wages to their families. ...

All of them were there by their own choice. They were the volunteer forces of the people. ...

These bandits were dependent on imperialism. We can't look at the bandits in isolation, on their own, as just some group of crazies who took up arms. No, no, no. This was organized. They were being organized as a fifth column to back an invasion by the United States. An important mission was assigned to these bandits by Washington.

At the time of the first clean-up, the mission for which the bandits were being prepared was to attack and seize the main towns when the invasion came — Trinidad and all those little towns there — and to take the highways. In addition, within the cities it was expected that organized counterrevolutionaries would take up arms when the moment came.

In other words, all this was being directed by imperialism.

What happened?

The commander in chief, Fidel, led the process of eliminating the bands prior to Girón. The murder and harassment of peasants had to be stopped. What's more, we knew an attack was coming. There had already been various types of sabotage actions by the bandits in different regions. For example, near Trinidad they blew up fuel tanks.

We made the effort to rapidly clean up the Escambray, so we wouldn't face a fifth column already armed and trained.

When the landing came at Girón, very few of the bandits remained. They were in flight. They were in hiding. They controlled nothing. This was part of defeating the U.S. invasion plan. The invaders were left without a rear guard.

September

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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8

The Militant September 7, 2020



ALYSON KENNEDY

## SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

# Fight for public works program



MALCOLM JARRETT

### Continued from front page

alongside their fellow workers, taking part in the fight against attacks on wages and working conditions by the bosses. Our campaign urges a fight for:

**A crash, government-funded public works program to put millions back to work at union-scale pay, to build hospitals, homes, schools and other things working people need today.** This would undercut bosses' efforts to pit workers trying to hold onto a job against those of us thrown out of work.

This competition is used by employers to press us to accept wage cuts and worse conditions. Every step we take to lessen that conflict — that gets workers back on the job — provides a stronger foundation for building the fighting union movement we need.

**Demand the government provide weekly union-scale benefits to all jobless workers, and other exploited producers** — regardless whether we're "permanent," "temporary," "self-employed," or hold "papers" the rulers consider "legal." We need regular payments we can depend on for as long as necessary, not short-lived "stimulus" handouts that Democrats and Republicans are quarreling over today.

As bosses threaten more layoffs, seeking to protect profits in their dog-eat-dog competition, our unions should demand a shorter workweek at no cut in pay to spread the work around. Workers should not have our wages slashed and bear the burden of a calamitous crisis in order to safeguard the bosses' profits.

We need a union movement in every workplace!

Acting as union organizers and joining together with co-workers on the job is the only way to fight boss attacks on our jobs, wages, and dignity.

We need to fight for workers control of production and safety. This can be a school for the working class to gain the knowledge and self-confidence to run the whole economy in the interests of the vast majority. All jobs can be done safely, if the workers take control.

These struggles will develop our class consciousness and provide the foundation for building a party of our own, a labor party, to defend the interests of all working people. A labor party would speak out in defense of all exploited and oppressed by capital and build solidarity with strikes like the one conducted by shipbuilders in Bath, Maine, and struggles like the fight to bring the cops who shot Jacob Blake to account.

All our struggles against the brutalities and exploitation of capital point to the need for working people to use their own political party to fight to take political power into our own hands.

We have a living example today that shows our class is capable of doing so — the Cuban Revolution. Led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, Cuban workers and farmers took political power in 1959 and have wielded it since in the interests of the vast majority. They say, "No one in Cuba is left on their own."

Join us introducing workers to the party's platform. It offers a realistic road forward to mobilize working people in our millions — the only force capable once and for all of putting an end to capitalist exploitation.

## As vote nears, working people face capitalist crisis

### Continued from front page

pay cut, and countless more face lower incomes with their hours slashed. Evictions and foreclosures are rising. Thousands of restaurants and other small businesses have been wiped out altogether.

La Jordana food pantry in Queens, New York, used to get groceries to 1,000 families a week before the pandemic. Now it tries to serve 10,000.

In the midst of this crisis there is no agreement between the two ruling parties on a new aid package.

In contrast to President Donald Trump and Democratic Party candidate Joe Biden, the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett demand immediate, emergency relief for the working class, farmers, small shop owners and other exploited producers.

Workers need a union movement in every workplace, to fend off daily attacks by the bosses. We need to build a powerful working-class movement to fight for a government-funded public works program to create jobs at union pay for all those thrown out of work, building medical centers, housing and other things working people need.

This kind of fighting labor movement would be the basis for workers to organize our own political party, a labor party, to strengthen our struggles and fight to take political power into our own hands.

### Democrats: 'It's Trump!'

At their convention, the Democrats promoted one central theme — the problem is Trump. They call on progressives, Republican Never-Trumpers, and democratic socialists to unite to drive him out of the White House. Once in office, Biden promised, his administration will "rebuild our economy." But he offered no proposals to reverse the ruinous impact of unemployment today. A few days later, he told ABC News he's ready to "shut down" the entire economy until the virus goes away.

The Democrats' anti-Trump theme, backed by the middle-class left, glosses over deepening divisions in their ranks. Earlier this year, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, told *New York* magazine, "In any other country, Joe Biden and I would not be in the same party, but in America we are."

The democratic socialist wing of the Democrats

would like to take over the party — something the ruling capitalist families the party serves will most certainly prevent. These forces will have to form a party of their own, equally loyal to defending capitalism but with a more radical and socialist "face."

The Trump campaign hopes to make his management of the capitalist economy a central issue in his reelection campaign. At the Republican convention Aug. 24 Trump said he had produced "the most successful economy in the history of our country."

Another major theme for the Trump campaign was highlighted by Vice President Mike Pence, who said, "Law and order is on the ballot."

The Democrats and the liberal media do damage to the movement against police brutality by trying to credit anarcho-radicals engaged in damage and looting as part of the "protesters."

In a recent speech, Kamala Harris, the Democrats' candidate for vice president, prettified these forces, referring to them as "mothers and veterans." But protesters against cop brutality in Portland, Oregon, have been attempting to separate their actions aimed at winning prosecution of cops from the destructive violence of antifa and other forces that alienate working people.

Many workers are turned off by calls by liberals to "defund the police," as they face gang warfare and murders in cities across the country. They are outraged by the cop killings of Breonna Taylor and many more, and are ready to fight for justice in those cases, but don't want to be left on their own when bullets start flying in their neighborhoods.

The Republican Party has been changed by Trump's presidency. He was elected in 2016 not as a Republican, but as an outsider campaigning against the "swamp" in Washington. His term in office has been marked by *his* politics, not those of traditional Republicanism. If he loses in November, Republicans will need to rebuild the party.

Between now and November, SWP campaign supporters will reach far and wide among working people to introduce its candidates and working-class program. They will continue to work with co-workers on the job to organize a union movement and build solidarity with strikes and other struggles in the interest of working people. This is the road forward to build a working-class movement that can lead millions to take power into our own hands.

## Lift ban on 'Militant'

### Continued from front page

is "dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riots, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law or Department rules."

"The justification offered for the ban is unsupported by the article's content," Samuel Morley, general counsel of the Florida Press Association, wrote in an Aug. 18 letter to the Literature Review Committee opposing the banning of issue no. 30. "We do not believe it advocates any facility disruption or violation of the law," he adds. "Rather, the decision appears to be arbitrary and irrational."

In response to a question from the *Militant*, Morley said he was not aware of impoundments of any other papers, like the *Miami Herald* and *Orlando Sentinel* that had carried coverage of COVID-19 outbreaks in Florida prisons. The *Herald's* coverage included a report of a prisoner on a hunger strike. It wasn't banned.

Florida state prison authorities gave the same reason for impounding issue no. 31, claiming the objectionable article was "Workers Oppose Federal Cops, Antifa Violence in Portland." The article *opposes* looting and violent attacks by groups like antifa in Portland, Oregon, and explains how this is an obstacle to building a broad-based movement to press for prosecution of cops who brutalize and shoot working people. Again, this is a topic the media has covered extensively. The *Militant* plans to appeal this suppression also.

Word about recent impoundments of the *Militant* has gotten around among prisoners. "I am an inmate currently housed with a recipient of your newspaper," a prisoner from Florida wrote to the *Militant*. "However, issue no. 30 was denied. I am a prison legal advocate and will grieve this issue at this institution," he said, adding, "I would also like to receive the newspaper."

Supporters of political rights have been contacting the Literature Review Committee urging them to overturn these impoundments. Among those that have sent letters are the Florida American Civil Liberties Union and The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Over the past several years the *Militant* has fought, and in most cases been victorious in overturning impoundments by Florida prison authorities. From mid-2017 to August 2019 they impounded almost three dozen issues, more than one-third of *Militant* issues printed over that time.

They then stopped banning the paper for about eight months, until May of this year when issue no. 13 was impounded. Prison authorities claimed pictures of workers protesting with raised fists were "gang signs." This was reversed. "No explanation," Goldstein wrote in the appeal, "let alone a reasoned one, is ever given by the censoring FDOC officials as to what they actually find objectionable and why."

"Workers behind bars have the right to read different viewpoints, to think for themselves and form their own opinions about political questions," said *Militant* editor John Studer. "And the *Militant* is guaranteed the right to freedom of the press, to be able to send our paper to subscribers behind bars."

Studer urged workers, unions, church groups and civil liberties organizations to write to the Literature Review Committee asking that these impoundments be overturned.

Send letters to Dean Peterson, Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399, or via email at [Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com](mailto:Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com), with copies to the *Militant*.

### Fight prison ban on the 'Militant'

**Get out the word.** Distribute copies of *Militant* articles on this fight.

**Get statements of support** from unions, churches and defenders of workers rights and free speech. Send to the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee: [AllenPeterson@fdc.myflorida.com](mailto:AllenPeterson@fdc.myflorida.com). Send a copy to [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)

**Send a check** to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked "Prisoners Rights Fight."